

Slackers

by Steve Eginolre

A pursuit of ultimate balance, precision and hours of hard-knock practice, the art of slacklining has emerged from the fringes of rock climbing culture into a full blown, bonafide sport of its own. Utilizing nylon webbing to span the distance between two anchor points, a slackline is stretched tight, leaving enough dynamic tension to walk and bounce on it like a long, narrow trampoline. When class is out, the Fort Lewis College Slackline Club takes on the natural playgrounds surrounding Durango to set up everything from beginner walks to high-stakes spans that stretch hundreds of feet. Here's a look:



To learn new skills, one must know how to fall gracefully, as demonstrated by Marshall Thompson.



Some prefer to walk barefoot for better sensitivity.



Pulling tension on a 230-foot long line.



Professional slackliner, Mickey Wilson, dismounts from the line with a perfect back-flip.



FLC Slackline Club President Liz Thomas practices advanced aerial maneuvers.